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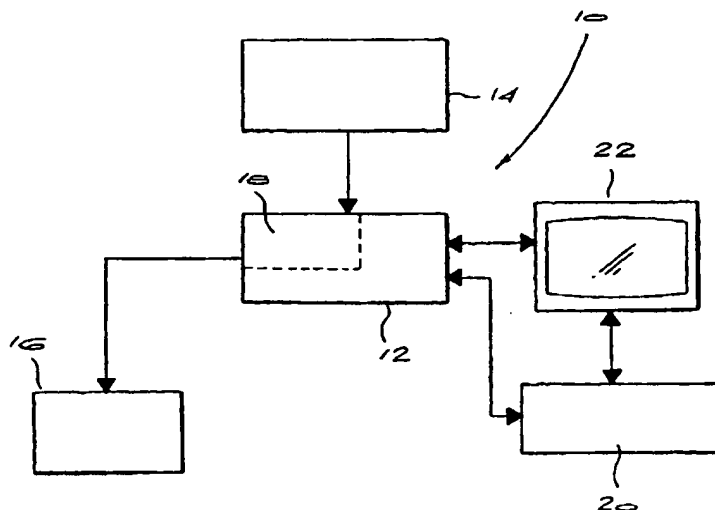
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(54) Title: AN INTERACTIVE COMPUTER-BASED GAMING SYSTEM



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(57) Abstract: An interactive computer-based gaming system (10) includes a display screen (22) comprising a betting card which takes the form of a matrix divided into ten legs. The game commences once a series of ten numbers are drawn by a random number generator (12) and inserted into the legs of the betting card. Thereafter, a first string of winning numbers in a results card is generated, the first string corresponding to the first leg of the betting card. To determine whether a player has won anything involves comparing the winning numbers in each of the columns of the results card to the corresponding legs of the betting card to see whether there are any matching numbers. After the first string of winning numbers is generated, the player has an opportunity of either drawing further strings of winning numbers with a view to obtaining further matches, or withdrawing a portion or all the winnings to date.

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AN INTERACTIVE COMPUTER-BASED GAMING SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

THIS invention relates to an interactive computer-based gaming system.

Gaming systems and lotteries in which players actively participate in a game and win money according to the outcome of the game are hugely popular. Apart from lotteries, most games of this type are played in secured environments such as casinos, which are not accessible to everyone.

One significant disadvantage of lotteries is that the player has minimal input, and has very little or no control both over manipulation of the odds and over manipulation of the outcome of the game.

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wherein the game control means is arranged to compute a payout in the event of a predetermined correlation existing between the at least one drawn object and the winning object string in respect of a particular leg and to allow the player selectively to receive at least a portion of the payout and/or to progress to the next leg.

displaying a plurality of legs, each leg being arranged to receive at least one object drawn from the set of objects;

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computing a payout in the event of a predetermined correlation existing between the at least one drawn object and the winning object string in respect of a particular leg; and

enabling the player selectively to receive at least a portion of the payout and/or to progress to the next leg.

Preferably, the method further includes the step of varying the odds in a particular leg during play.

Advantageously, the odds can be varied by dynamically varying the number of drawn objects in a particular leg during play. In addition, the odds can be varied by dynamically varying the number of generated objects in the winning object string which are to be correlated with the at least one drawn object during play.

Preferably, the method includes the step of enabling the withdrawal of a player-determined percentage of the payout during the course of the game.

Typically, the step of generating a plurality of winning object strings from a set of objects includes the step of generating random or pseudo-random number strings, with the objects being numbered from 0 - 9.

In one form of the invention, the method includes the step of printing a ticket comprising the plurality of legs prior to the payout being computed.

According to a third aspect of the invention there is provided a gaming ticket comprising:

a wager indicator for indicating the quantum of a wager laid by a player;

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a customized betting zone comprising a plurality of legs, with each leg comprising a plurality of sub-zones in which objects pre-selected by the player from a set of objects are printed; and

a dynamic withdrawal indicator for allowing the player selectively to receive at least a portion of a payout and/or to progress to the next leg, the payout being computed in the event of a predetermined correlation existing between the at least one drawn object and a winning object string subsequently generated.

The gaming ticket typically includes a results card for receiving the winning object string from the set of objects.

Preferably, the gaming ticket includes an odds varying indicator for indicating how the odds in a particular leg have been varied.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- Figure 1** shows a highly schematic block diagram of a computer-based gaming system of the invention;
- Figures 2A - 2J** show typical printouts of an interactive display screen forming part of the gaming system and illustrating an exemplary game in progress;
- Figure 3** shows a flowchart illustrating the main routine which the gaming system of the invention follows; and

The operation of the game will now be described with reference to the flowcharts of Figures 3 and 4A to 4G with reference to the typical display screen printouts of Figures 2A – 2J. In order to start a game, the details of a particular player are entered, as is shown in Figure 3, and the identified player is then required to enter some form of legal tender into the system via the funds acceptance means 14. This may be achieved in a number of ways, including physical notes and coins, a debit or credit card reader, a smart card reader or any other funds transfer routine from a player's account using a suitably secured funds transfer method. The value of the tender accepted by the funds acceptance means is stored in the Internal account database 18

which keeps a running tally of the balance in the player's account. It is then created in the manner indicated in the Figure 4B sub-routine. In the exemplary example, the player has submitted a tender of R500 000, as shown in the Balance Indicator 23.

The display screen of Figure 2A shows a typical betting card 24 with the value of the player's tender shown at 26. The card 24 takes the form of a 10x10 matrix divided into 10 columns or legs 24.1 to 24.10. At the start of the game, the player has to lay his or her wager 27, as shown in Figure 2A, for that particular card, with the wager 27 being variable for each card 24. In the illustrated example, the player has wagered an amount of R1.00. For each wager 27 laid by the player, the card's background, or some other designated area of the card 24, becomes a colour which is specific to the amount laid in order to remind the player of the amount which has been laid. Thereafter, a series of 10 numbers are drawn by a random or pseudo-random number generator, as shown in Figure 2B. In the illustrated example, the number series 6 1 7 9 7 8 2 6 0 2 has been generated, with each successive number appearing at the head of each column 24.1 to 24.10. Figure 2B also clearly shows that as a result of the R1.00 wager, the Balance indicator 23 reflects an amount of R499 999 and the current value of the card 24 is R1.00, as shown at 26.

There are a number of different ways in which the betting card can be customized to suit the needs of the player. As a first option, subtract and add "buttons" 28 and 30 can be used to increase or decrease the number of required numbers drawn per column. By way of example, by clicking on the add button 30 three times, the additional numbers 8, 9 and 3 appear in the first column 24.1 as shown in Figure 2C. Since the player has bet R1.00 for the initial series of 10 numbers it will cost the player an additional R1.00 to place each of the additional numbers 8, 9 and 3. The player then continues to prepare the betting card by adding a number (3) to the second column 24.2.

Since R1.00 stakes are being used, the amount bet will effectively double to R8.00. The addition of the drawn numbers 0 and 5 in the third column 24.3 will increase the stake to R24.00, and the wager will be increased to R96.00 by addition of three more numbers in the fourth column 24.4. It can clearly be seen that the original R1 wager has been increased to R96 by virtue of the player increasing the chances of winning by $4 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 = 96$. The R96.00 wagered amount corresponds to the current value of the card, and is indicated at 26, and a corresponding decrease of R96.00 in the player's balance is also indicated at 23.

The player can still make further adjustments to the betting card 24, by using up and down arrows 32 and 34 respectively to further vary the odds, as will be explained with reference to Figures 2D and 2E. Figures 4C and 4D illustrate the sub-routines involved in doing so. These up and down arrows 32 and 34 are used to adjust, in a lower row selector square 36, the number of winning numbers to be considered, once the game is in progress, as will be explained in more detail further below. By way of example, in the first three row select squares 36.1, 36.2 and 36.3, the first three rows of winning numbers have been selected as indicated by the brown, dark green and light blue bands 38. In the fourth row select square 36.4, the first four rows have been selected, with the addition of the purple band 38.1. This increases the winning odds, but as a result the goal or winning total is proportionately reduced. In the present case, for example, the winning total is reduced by a factor of $3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 4 = 108$, so that the original winning total of R100 000 000, as shown in Figure 2D, is reduced to R925 925.93 as shown in Figure 2E.

Once the betting card has been set up, the start button 40 is clicked, and this has the effect of generating a first string of winning numbers 42 in a results card 44, as shown in Figure 2E. The results card 44 comprises a similar 10x10 matrix, with the various columns 44.1 to 44.10 corresponding to the columns 24.1 to 24.10. For ease of reference, each successive row in each of the

At this stage, the player has an opportunity of either drawing further results columns 44.2 to 44.10 with a view to obtaining further matches between the betting card legs and the results columns, or withdrawing a portion or all the winnings to date. In the present example, we will assume that the player wishes to withdraw certain of his winnings. This is done by clicking on the Take button 46, after which a withdrawal window 48, as shown in Figure 2F, appears on the screen allowing the player to vary the percentage of winnings

The gaming system of the invention can be played in numerous different forms. For example, it may be a casino-based game, it can be played as a

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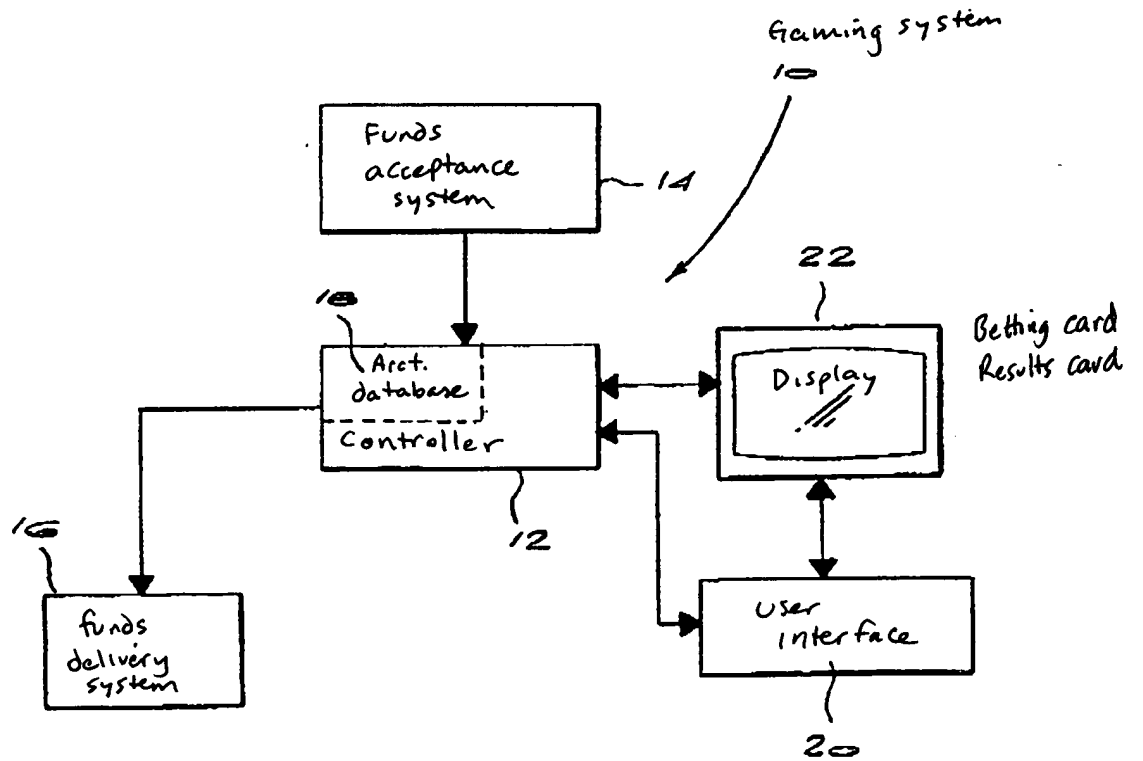
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lottery, or it can be Internet-based, in which case it can be downloaded from a central secured server onto a player's terminal.

In one form of the invention, the card is purchased from selected outlets in the form of a printed ticket. Upon purchasing the ticket, the player may still customize the betting card, as described above. The main difference is that the player will need to decide beforehand at what stage, i.e. on which leg, the winnings are to be taken. It is envisaged that in this form of the invention the string of winning numbers would then be generated on a weekly basis, with all winning tickets then being taken to the various outlets to enable the player to collect the winnings.

In a further form of the invention, the player may prefer to purchase pre-designed tickets of varying denominations. Thus, for example, should the player wish to wager a total amount of R100, the card will automatically draw 5 numbers in the first leg, five numbers in the second leg and then 4 numbers in the third leg.

FIG 1



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 $\frac{2}{18}$

10x10 matrix

Betting card

24

23

26

Wager Game

Balance: R 500.000 Goal: R 0.00

Current Value: R 0.00 Wager Amount: R 0.00

O/E Wager R 0.00 Total Lines: 0

Active Lines: 0 O/E Winnings: R 0.00

Goal

Current Value

Wager per Line

Wager Amount

Total Lines

Active Lines

Wager

Wager 27

OK

2A.1 2A.2 2A.3 2A.4 2A.5 2A.6 2A.7 2A.8 2A.9 2A.10

3A.1 3A.2 3A.3 3A.4 3A.5 3A.6 3A.7 3A.8 3A.9 3A.10

Take End

leg

le

~~SECRET~~ 2A

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23 26 24

Winnings: R 0.00

Current Value: R 0.00

Goal: R 100,000,000.00

Wager per Line: 100

Wager Amount: R 100

Active Lines: 0

Take End

add

subtract
#s per leg

2B

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23 26 24

Win-a-Mil Test Player

Balance: R 100,000,000.00 Goal: R 100,000,000.00 Warnings: R 0.00
 Current Value: R 96.00 Total Lines: Wager Amount: R 96.00
 O/E Wager: R 0.00 Active Lines: O/E Warnings: R 0.00

Card Number: 1

Goal: R 100,000,000.00
 Current Value: P 96.00
 Wager per Line: 100
 Wager Amount: R 96.00
 Total Lines: 0
 Active Lines: 0

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119	1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147	1148	1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164	1165	1166	1167	1168	1169	1170	1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176	1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188	1189	1190	1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	1206	1207	1208	1209	1210	1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221	1222	1223	12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WO 01/24128

5/18

PCT/IB00/01402

$$4 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 = 96 \text{ active lines}$$

Win-a-Mil Test Player

Balance	R 925,925.33	Goal	R 100,000,000.00	Winnings	R 0.00
Current Value	R 925.00	Total Lines		Wager Amount	R 96.00
O/E Wager	R 0.00	Active Lines	0	O/E Winnings	R 0.00

Card Number 1

Goal	R 925,925.33
Current Value	R 96.00
Wager per Line	100
Wager Amount	R 96.00
Total Lines	96
Active Lines	96

34 36.1 36.2 36.3 36.4 36.5 36.6 36.7 36.8 36.9 36.10

36 20

Selects #
of winning
#s generated
per square 36

winning total reduced by factor

$$3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 4 = 108$$

winning total of 100,000,000.00 is reduced to 925,925.93

$$100,000,000 \div 108 = 925,925.93$$

10069529 107089529

WO 01/24128

PCT/IB00/01402

6/18

betting card value reduced by 16 from 96 to 80
~~24~~ active lines = 2+3+4 = 24 from legs 2-4

26

Win-Mill Test Player

Balance	R 925,925.93	Goal	R 925,925.93	Winnings	R 0.00
Current Value	R 925.93	Total Lines	24	Wager Amount	R 96.00
O/E Wager	R 0.00	Active Lines	24	O/E Winnings	R 0.00

Card Number: 1

Goal	R 925,925.93
Current Value	R 925.93
Wager per Line	100
Wager Amount	R 96.00
Total Lines	24
Active Lines	24

1st string of winning #'s

42

Leg 1

6 is a winning number match

6 8 9

Compared 20 6

Results Card

44

44.2

44.1 44.3

44.4 44.5

44.6 44.7

44.8 44.9

44.10

→ corresponds to 24.1 - 24.10

2E

no start button 40

Balances **Goal** R 925,925.93 **Winnings** R 0.00
Current Value R 0.00 **Total Lines** **Wager Amount** R 96.00
O/E Wager 24 **Active Lines** 24 **O/E Winnings** R 0.00

Card Number 1

Goal R 925,925.93
Current Value R 0.00
Wager per Line 100
Wager Amount R 96.00
Total Lines
Active Lines 24

Take Winnings

Take %
☒ OK

Winnings box

46
take button
"Cash out"

4b Withdrawal window allows varying % of payout

25% of winnings = 20.00

20.00 deducted from card value
20.00 added to winnings box

104-899529

WO 01/24128

8/18

PCT/LB00/01402

Winn-Mid Test Player S.P.

Balances	R 450.00	Goal	R 925,925.93	Winnings	R 20.00
Current Value	R 600.00	Total Lines		Wager Amount	R 94.00
O/E Wager	R 0.00	Active Lines	24	O/E Winnings	R 0.00

< Card Number 1 >

Goal	R 925,925.93
Current Value	R 60.00
Wages per Line	100
Wages Amount	R 94.00
Total Lines	
Active Lines	24

The grid contains numbers from 0 to 9 arranged in rows and columns. The numbers are displayed in a stylized font, possibly indicating a winning combination or a set of numbers to be drawn.

~~SECRET~~ 2G

WO 01/24128

9/18

PCT/TB00/01402

Win a Mil. Test Player

Balance: R 925,925.93 Gold: R 925,925.93 Winnings: R 20.00
 Current Value: R 925.93 Total Lines: 24 Wager Amount: R 96.00
 OVE Wager: R 0.00 Active Lines: 24 O/E Winnings: R 0.00

< Card Number: 1 >

Gold: R 925,925.93
 Current Value: R 925.93
 Wager per Line: 100
 Wager Amount: R 96.00
 Total Lines: 24
 Active Lines: 24

44

44.2

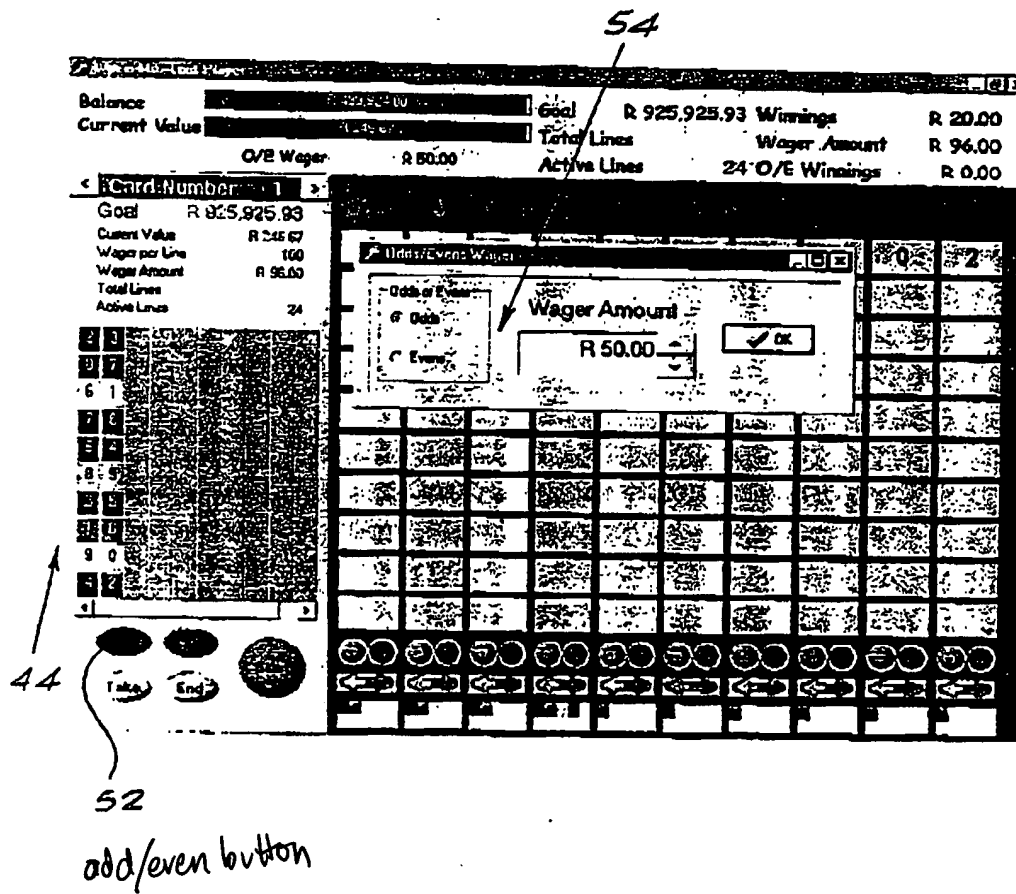
24.2

2H

WO 01/24128

PCT/TB00/01402

10/18



10/039527

11/18

Winn-Mat Test Player

Balance R 925,925.93
Current Value R 925.93

O/E Wager R 0.00

Goal R 925,925.93
Total Lines
Active Lines

Wager Amount R 70.00
Wager Amount R 94.00
O/E Winnings R 50.00

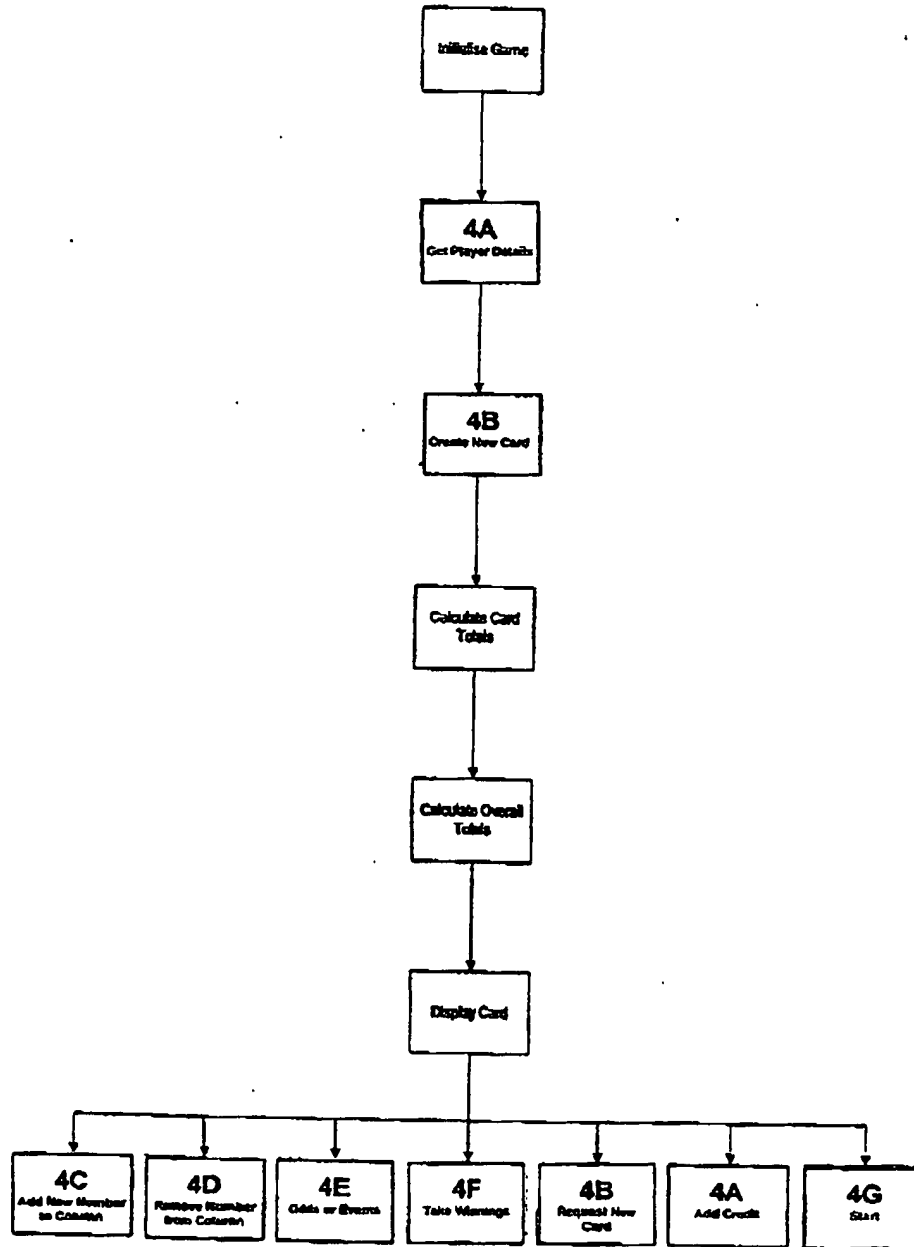
Card Number 1

Goal R 925,925.93
Current Value R 925.93
Wager per Line 100
Wager Amount R 94.00
Total Lines
Active Lines

3 1 7 8 7 8 2 8 0 2
8 3 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
9 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
3 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35
4 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44
5 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53
6 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62
7 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71
8 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80
9 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89
10 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98
11 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107
12 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116
13 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125
14 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134
15 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143
16 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152
17 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161
18 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170
19 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179
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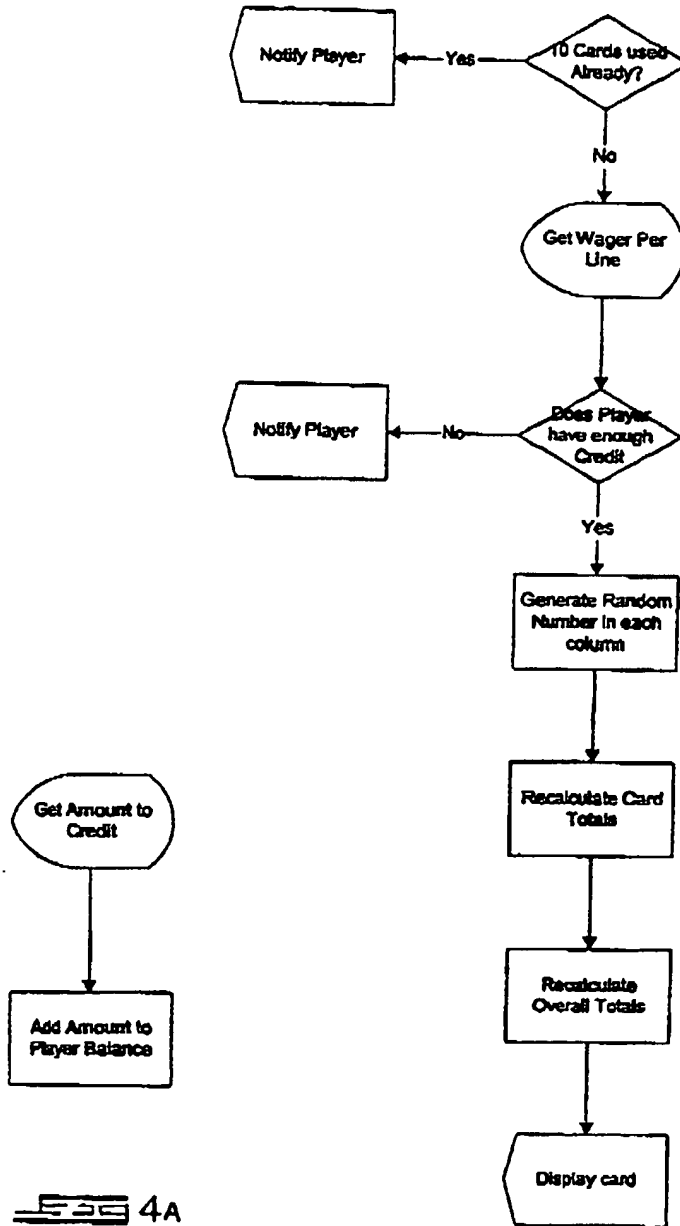
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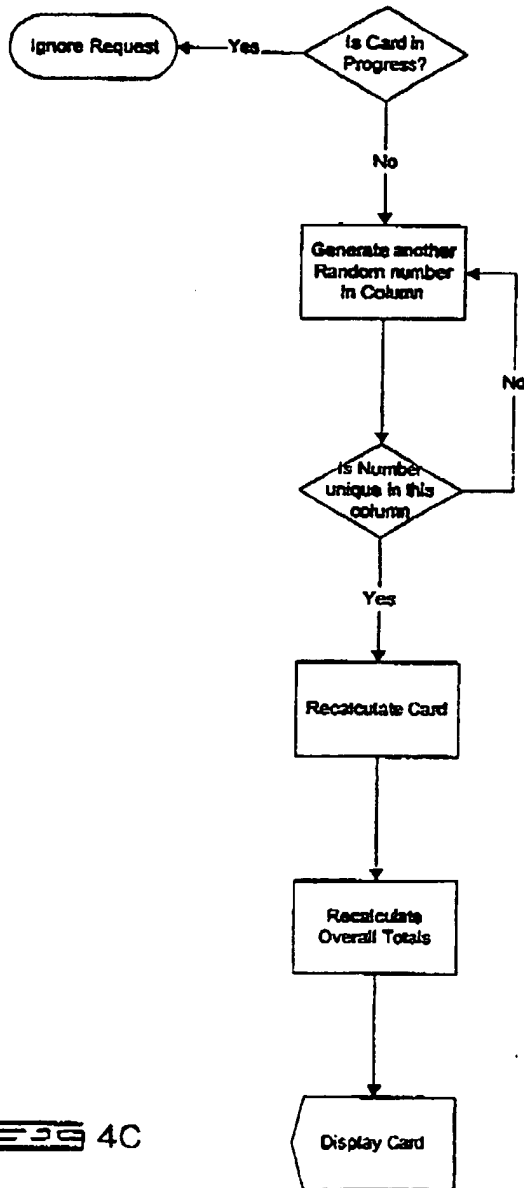
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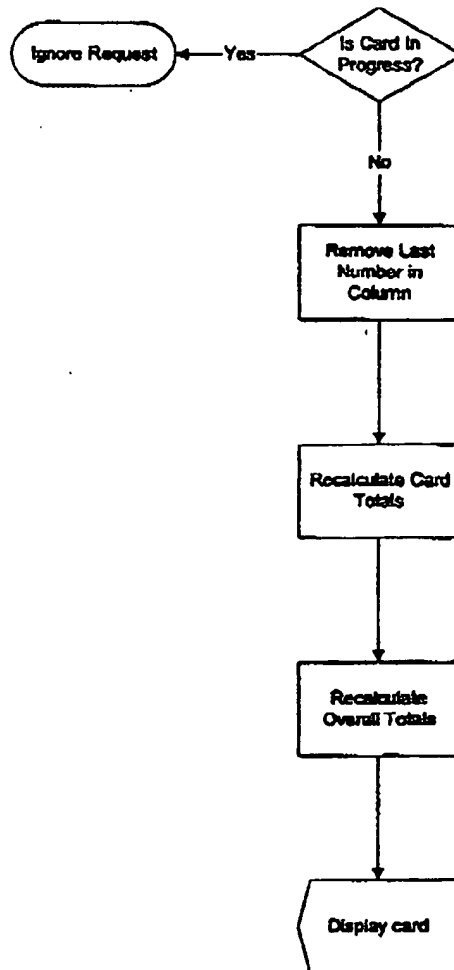


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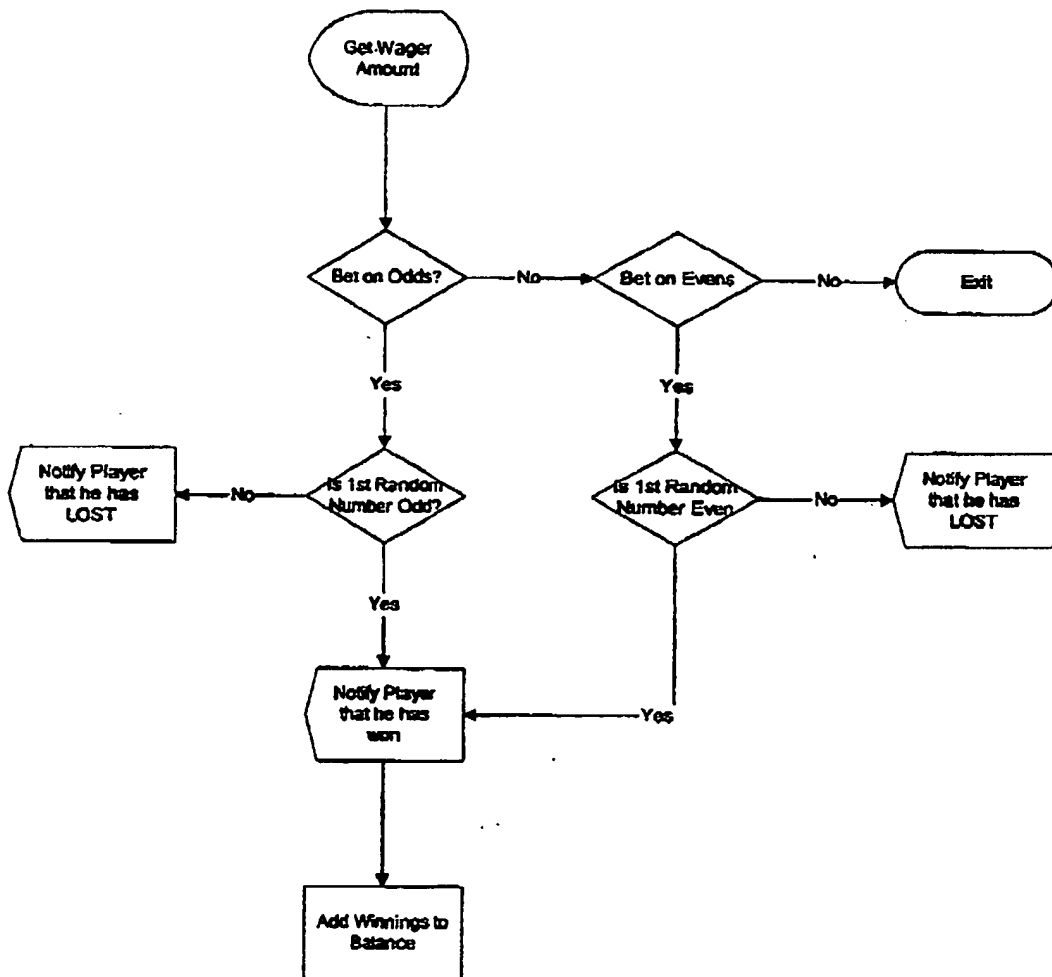
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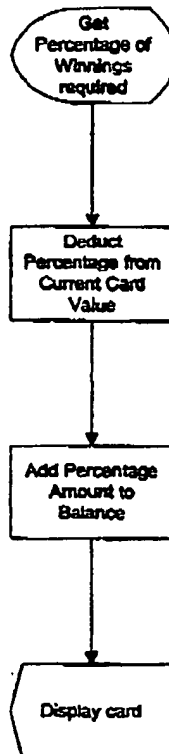
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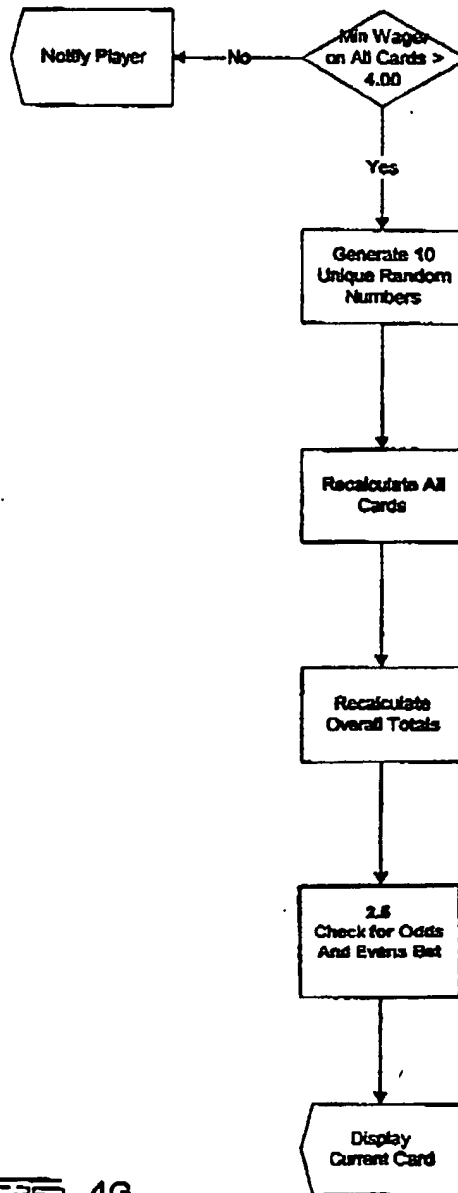
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18



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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PA103645/PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/IB 00/ 01402	International filing date (day/month/year) 02/10/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 30/09/1999
Applicant ZOCK, Joe		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1
☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/B 00/01402

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G07F17/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G07F A63F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	WO 98 55191 A (SHUFFLE MASTER INC) 10 December 1998 (1998-12-10) page 9, line 19 - line 37 page 11, line 8 - line 23 page 12, line 26 -page 13, line 10 claim 1; figures 3-7 ---	1,9,16 2-8, 10-15, 17,18
A	US 5 797 794 A (ANGELL ROBERT C) 25 August 1998 (1998-08-25) column 3, line 53 -column 4, line 18 claim 1; figure 2 ---	1,9,16
A	US 5 935 002 A (FALCIGLIA SAL) 10 August 1999 (1999-08-10) column 1, line 55 -column 2, line 27 abstract; claim 1; figures 1,4 ---	1,9,16
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 January 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

19/01/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Reule, D

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB 00/01402

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>WO 80 02512 A (TELE VEND INC ;SYSTEM OPERATIONS INC (US)) 27 November 1980 (1980-11-27) abstract; figure 1 -----</p>	1,9,16

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/JP 00/01402

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9855191 A	10-12-1998	AU 7813798 A EP 0923408 A ZA 9804907 A	21-12-1998 23-06-1999 29-12-1998
US 5797794 A	25-08-1998	AU 715605 B AU 4817497 A WO 9816284 A	03-02-2000 11-05-1998 23-04-1998
US 5935002 A	10-08-1999	US 5647798 A AU 5304596 A CA 2214377 A JP 11501842 T WO 9628798 A	15-07-1997 02-10-1996 19-09-1996 16-02-1999 19-09-1996
WO 8002512 A	27-11-1980	EP 0028652 A	20-05-1981

PCT

REC'D 14 NOV 2001

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PA103645/PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/IB00/01402	International filing date (day/month/year) 02/10/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 30/09/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G07F17/32		
Applicant ZOCK, Joe		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 26/04/2001	Date of completion of this report 12.11.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer van der Haegen, D Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2683 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/IB00/01402

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-11 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-18 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/18-18/18 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/IB00/01402

- ☐ the drawings, sheets:
5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):
(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)
6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application.
- ☒ claims Nos. 2-7, 9-18.

because:

- ☒ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 2-7, 9-18 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):
see separate sheet

- ☐ the description, claims or drawings (indicate particular elements below) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (specify):

- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

- ☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. . .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

- ☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
- ☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Yes: Claims

Novelty (N)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/IB00/01401

Inventive step (IS)	No:	Claims 1, 8
	Yes:	Claims
Industrial applicability (IA)	No:	Claims 1, 8
	Yes:	Claims

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. Given that claims 2-7 are formulated in terms of commonplace features relating to the technological implementation of game rules, no technical problem which might potentially have required an inventive step to overcome, could be established. Therefore, no examination was carried out for said claims (Article 34(4)(a)(i) PCT and Rule 67.1(iii) PCT).
2. Claims 9-15 relate to a method of playing a game. No examination is required to be carried out according to Rule 67.1(iii) PCT.
3. Claims 16-18 relate to a mere presentation of information, ie. a gaming ticket with 3 zones containing gaming information. No examination is required to be carried out according to Rule 67.1(v) PCT.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following document :

D1: WO 98 55191 A (SHUFFLE MASTER INC) 10 December 1998.

2. **Article 33(2) PCT**

- 2.1 Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (see eg. figures 1 and 2; page 9, line 1 - page 13, line 12) a video wagering device for playing a game, the system comprising :
 - fund acceptance means (16),
 - fund delivery means (22) responsive to the outcome of the game,
 - user interface means (18),

- game control means (20) responsive to the fund acceptance means (22) and including generator means (see eg. figures 5-6) suitable for generating a plurality of winning object strings from a set of objects and
- game display means (14) controlled by the game control means (20), the game display means including means for generating a plurality of legs (see eg. figure 4),

wherein

- the game control means (20) is arranged to compute a pay-out in the event of a predetermined correlation existing between the at least one drawn object and the winning object-string in respect of a particular leg and
- the game control means (20) is arranged to allow the player selectively to progress to the next leg.

2.2 The interactive computer-based gaming system does not differ from the video wagering device disclosed in D1. The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore not new.

2.3 The features introduced by the subject-matter of dependent claim 8 are known from D1 (see eg. page 3, lines 36-38) and do not, therefore, add any matter to claim 1 that renders it novel.

3. **Article 33(4) PCT**

The subject-matter of claims 1 and 8 is industrial applicable.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

1. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the document D1 is not mentioned in the description, nor is this document identified therein.
2. Independent claim 1 is not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b)

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/IB00/01402

PCT.

3. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).